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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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SOUVENIR BOOKLET

FAYETTE COUNTY, Iowa COURT HOUSE

DEDICATED
OCTOBER 8, 1924

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Fayette County, Ia. Court House.
Souvenir booklet [of the dedication] October 8,
1924.

23p. illus. 23cm.

Pictures of the first and second Fayette County
court houses inside back cover.

Rec'd Feb 22-1978

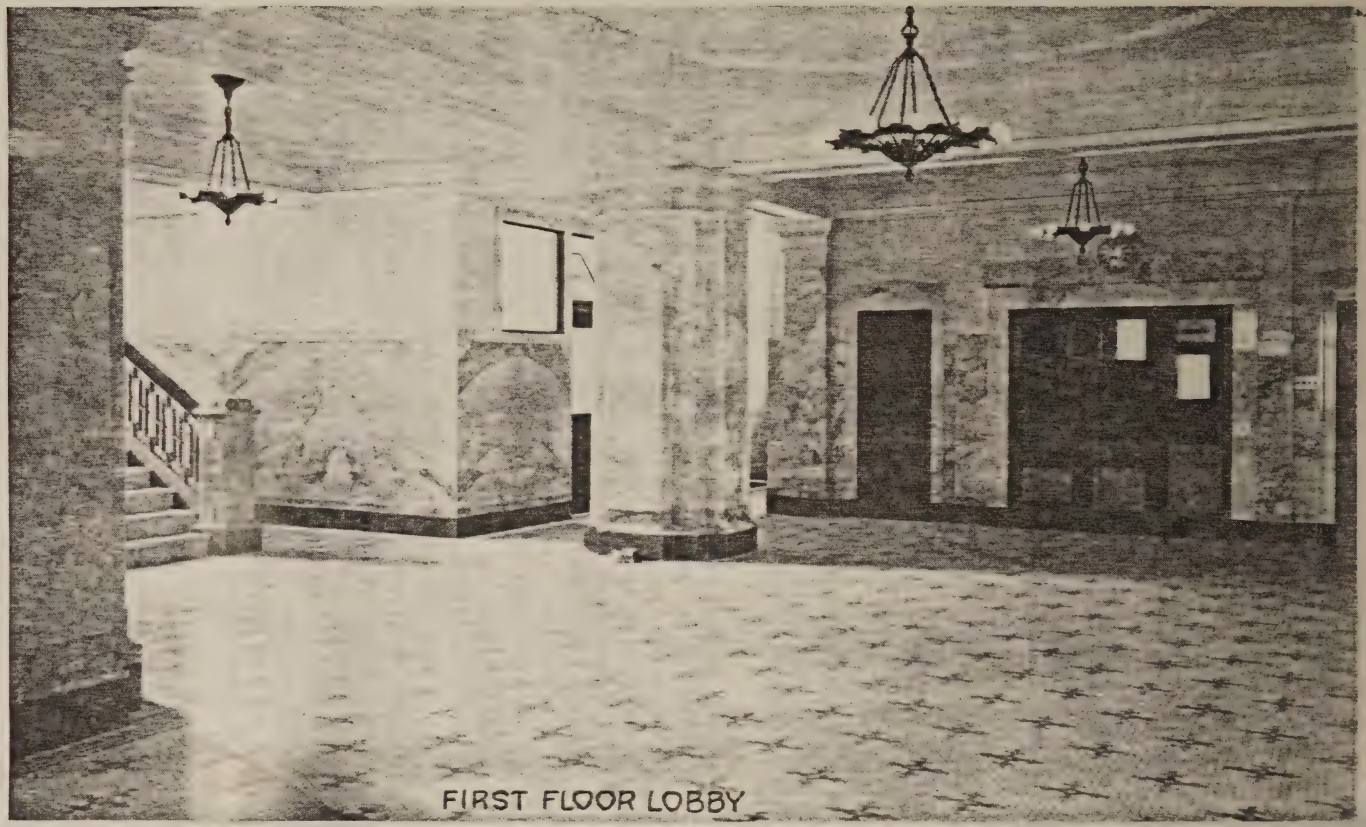
FAYE E COUNTY COURT HOUSE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

TO WHOM DEDICATED

The Fayette County Court House is dedicated to all the people of Fayette County.

This building has been erected not only to meet the demands and requirements of the present generation, but to also in a like manner meet the needs and requirements of the people of Fayette County for many generations to come; and to all those who have an interest or who will have an interest in this building to future generations as well as to the people of today this Court House is dedicated.



FIRST FLOOR LOBBY

A LITTLE HISTORY

Fayette County was organized in 1850 the territory embraced in the County having been originally a part of Dubuque County as set apart by the territorial government of Wisconsin in 1836.

In 1837 under the same territorial government, ten additional counties were created out of the territory originally contained within Dubuque County viz Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Jackson, Jones and Linn.

The first election in Fayette County was held in West Union Township July 15th 1850. Prior to this election and subsequent to the division of Dubuque County in 1837 into ten additional counties, Fayette was attached to Clayton County for Judicial and Revenue purposes.

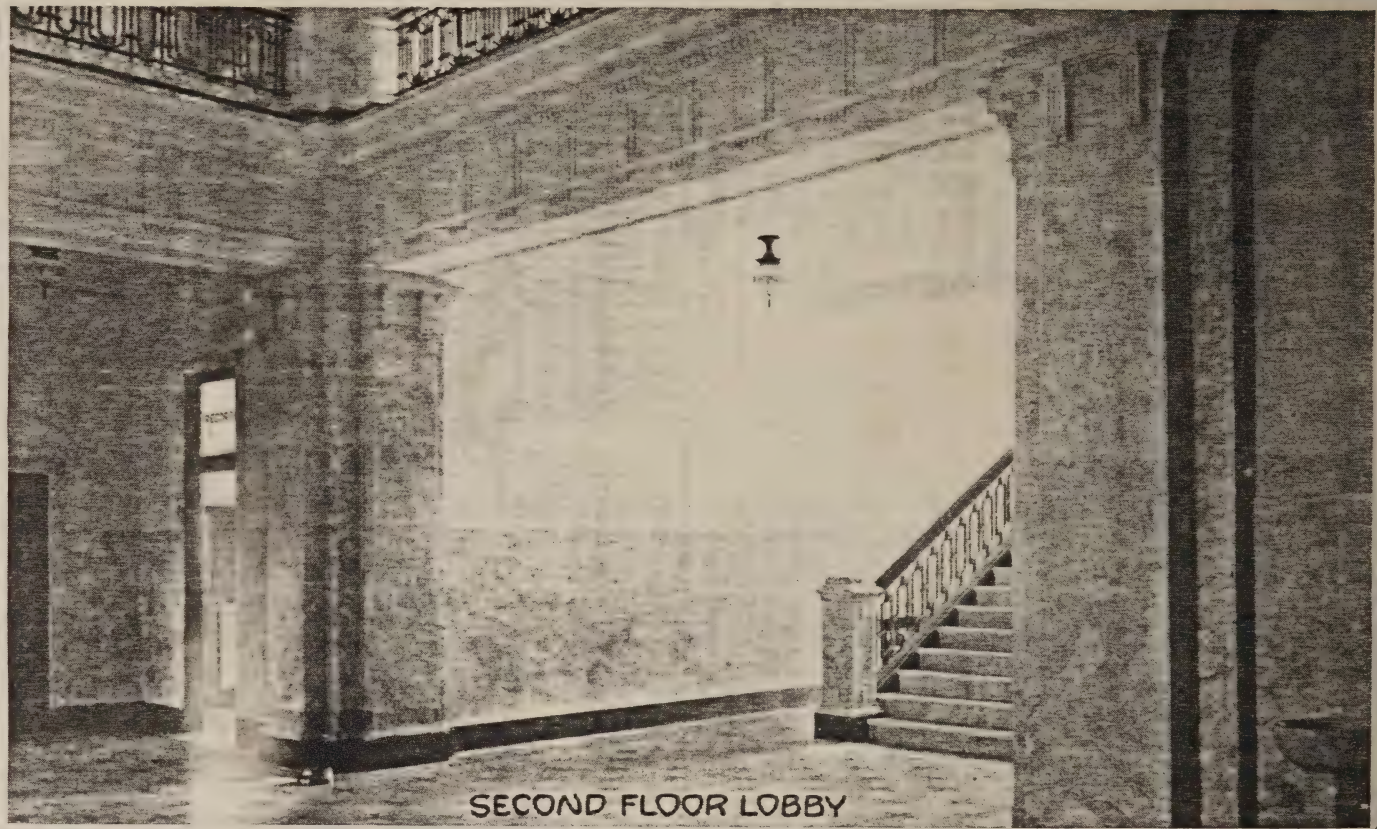
The Village of West Union was laid out and platted in 1850. The plat of the village was filed for record, June 28th of that year and recorded on page one in Town Platbook Number one of Fayette County.

In the articles describing the location and sub-divisions of the village of West Union, a plot of ground four hundred feet square near the center of the village is set apart and designated as the Public Square, with the proviso that the same be appropriated to Fayette County for public buildings should the county seat be located at West Union, and on or near the center of this square the first Fayette County Court House and both succeeding Court Houses have been erected.

In addition to the natural beauty of the location, the grounds have been greatly improved and beautified and it is difficult to conceive of a more attractive Court House site.

Work on the first Fayette County Court House was begun in 1856 and the building was completed the following year 1857. This building was destroyed by fire on Sunday September 15th 1872. Fayette County was then without a court house for about two years, the second court house having been erected in 1874. This building was remodeled in 1894 1895 and in 1896 and was destroyed by fire about noon on Sunday February 5th 1922.

On June 21st 1923 the corner stone of the present structure was laid and work was continued on the building without interruption until its completion in September 1924.



SECOND FLOOR LOBBY

On August 14th 1924 the Board of Supervisors extended an invitation to thirty of the representative citizens of the county to be present at a conference to be held in West Union at 2 o'clock P. M. Tuesday August 19th 1924 for the purpose of fixing a date and arranging a program for the dedication of the new Court House. The following named citizens were invited to be present at this conference:—

Jacob Greteman	Auburn Township.
Aug. Pagel	Banks Township
W. H. Hochberger	Bethel Township.
John McSweeney	Center Township.
John A. Erickson	Clermont Township.
Henry Lauer	Dover Township.
J. M. Smittle	Eden Township
H. R. Young	Fairfield Township.
Frank S. Coleman	Fremont Township.
John Meyer	Harlan Township.
J. O. Probert	Illyria Township.
W. J. Irvine	Jefferson Township.
J. N. Getz	Oran Township.
J. D. Shaffer	Pleasant Valley Township.
T. N. Derflinger	Putnam Township.
Henry Wolfe	Scott Township
A. J. Koehler	Smithfield Township.
A. H. Kent	Union Township.
A. R. Oelberg	Westfield Township.
L. H. Houth	Windsor Township.
Geo. S. Hartman	Fayette.
E. R. O'Brien	Oelwein at large.
Fred S. Robinson	Oelwein First Ward.
R. B. Jamison	Oelwein Second Ward.
G. C. Adams	Oelwein Third Ward.
G. W. Nolton	Oelwein Fourth Ward.
J. W. Dwyer	West Union at large.
E. H. Estey	West Union First Ward.
W. H. Antes	West Union Second Ward.
R. O. Woodard	West Union Third Ward.

The conference was held as planned on the afternoon of August 19th and the date selected for the dedicatory exercises was Wednesday October 8th 1924 and the following program was arranged.

THIRD FLOOR LOBBY

DEDICATION PROGRAM

TEN O'CLOCK A. M.

Music .....Oelwein City Concert Band.
Invocation .....Rev. W. L. Alexander.
Presentation of Court House .....W. K. Humphry.
Chairman of Board.
Acceptance of Court House. .....Dr. G. D. Darnall.
Violin Solo .....Archibald Sowden.
Address .....Rev. Father H. F. Roney.
Address .....Hon. J. D. Cooney.
Address .....Hon. H. E. Taylor.
Address .....Hon. W. J. Springer.
Music .....Girls Glee Club Upper Iowa University.
Dedication Address .....Hon. Thomas Arthur.
Chief Justice.
Music .....Fayette County Consolidated Bands.
Benediction .....Rev. E. J. Wykle.
Barbecue, Court House Square .....1:00 P. M.
Visiting Court House .....3:00 P. M.
Music By Grant's Orchestra .....3:00 P. M.

Band Concert 7:00 P. M. to 9:00 P. M. by the Oelwein City Concert Band and the Fayette County Consolidated Bands. Dancing at the Court House and at the Opera House beginning at 9:00 P. M.

The above program was fully and successfully carried out.

LADIES REST ROOM

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The superstructure of the Fayette County Court House is constructed of Gray Bedfore Stone. The building rises majestically from base of gray granite, the whole scheme of architecture being classic and grand.

The building was designed with the utmost care, is complete in detail and arrangement, and is harmonious and pleasing in all its parts.

The building stands North and South, facing the West and is ninety feet wide by one hundred and sixteen feet in length.

The building is three stories in heighth with basement and attic. There is a large amount of space in both the basement and attic that can be used for storage purposes should occasion ever require it.

The main entrance to the building is on the west; it is of solid bronze construction, massive and impressive in appearance, and will stand unaffected by the elements for many generations to come.

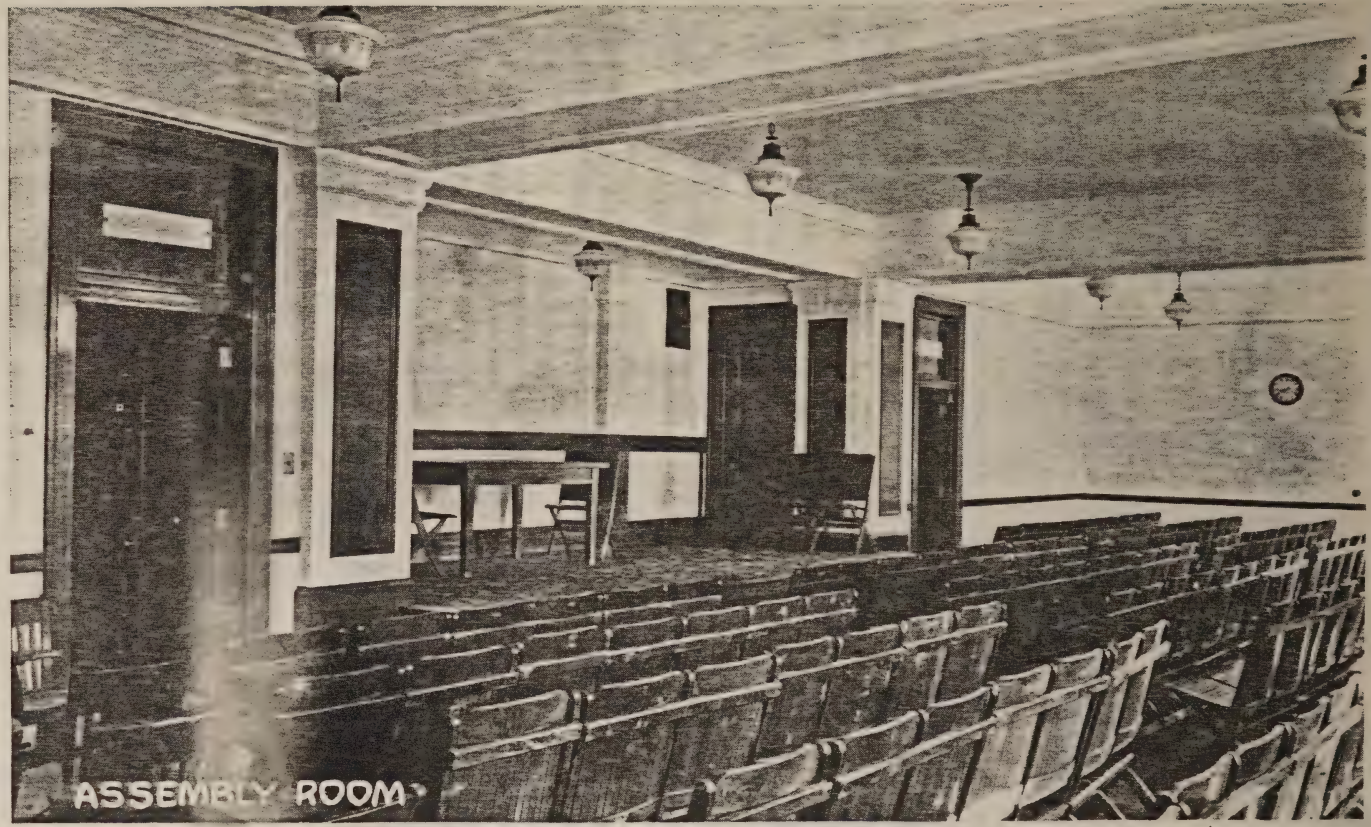
Passing through the main entrance you enter the vestibule which is very artistic in finish and equipment. The lighting fixture in the vestibule and also the lighting fixtures in the main lobby were donated to Fayette County and are worthy of special notice.

You next enter the main lobby on the first floor. The wainscoting here and throughout the building, except the toilet rooms is of Alaskian Marble, a light clouded grey in color, the beauty of which it is impossible to describe.

On entering the main lobby, to your left is the Womens Rest Room. This is a large spacious apartment, equipt with reed furniture of the most modern design. This room is connected with a large and commodious toilet room which is in the north-west corner of the building. The wainscoting in this and other toilet rooms throughout the building, is of Tennessee Marble, which is a light brownish grey in color and of beautiful grain and finish.

To the right of the main entrance is the office of the County Superintendent of Schools. This suite of rooms was especially designed for this purpose, being connected with the Assembly Room on the south.

On the north side is the Mens Smoking Room, which is entered from the main lobby. This room is designed for a



ASSEMBLY ROOM

waiting room for men, it is furnished with comfortable chairs, and there is a large public toilet room in connection.

In the north-east corner are the rooms assigned to the County Engineer, consisting of general drafting room, private office, closet and vault.

On the east side of the building and to the left of the stairway is the G. A. R. Room, which has been equipt by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, with furnishings of an interesting and historical character.

To the right of the stairway are the rooms assigned to the County Attorney there being a main office, private office, closet and vault.

In the center and on the south side of the lobby opposite the mens smoking room is the automatic electric elevator which operates to all the floors from the basement to the attic.

Across the south end of the building is the Assembly Room. This room is entered through an outside entrance from the south and can also be entered from the main lobby on either side of the elevator. This room will be used for teachers examinations, Farm Bureau meetings, Conventions, etc. It is equipped with folding opera chairs, and a speakers platform, is well lighted and well ventilated and will seat about two hundred and forty people. Across the west end of this room a system of wardrobes are installed for the accommodation of wraps.

To the east of the assembly room in the south-east corner of the building is a small room that is assigned to the use of the janitor.

The second floor is divided into four office suites and the Supervisors office.

The Supervisors office is located on the west side and in the center and opens out on to a small balcony directly above the main entrance. This room is furnished with desk and chairs suitable for the use of the Board of Supervisors and also has public seating capacity for about thirty people.

The County Auditors office is to the left of the Supervisors office in the south-west corner of the building.

The office of the Clerk of the District Court is to the right of the Supervisors office in the north-west corner of the building.

The County Recorder is located in the north-east corner

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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and to the left of the stairway as you stand facing it and the County Treasurer is located in the south-east corner and to the right of the stairway.

The quarters assigned to the Auditor, Clerk, Recorder and Treasurer are very similar in arrangement, each suite consisting of a main office, private office, large working vault closet and toilet room.

On ascending to the third floor, you find yourself in the Rotunda looking down on the floor below and up to the art glass dome above, which is indeed beautiful in construction and finish.

The Court Room is across the north end of the building and is lighted through skylights of art glass and large windows on the north and east. The court room furniture and equipment are of the most substantial character and modern in design and arrangement.

On the west side of the building, in the order named beginning at the north-west corner are the following apartments: Judges Private office, Court Reporters office, Law Library, Sheriffs office, and two jury rooms, each room being especially arranged for the purpose to which it is assigned.

On the east side a large toilet room for men occupies the space between the court room and the main stairway.

The grand Jury room is in the South-east corner and next on the side is the Grand Jury Witness room and the space between this room and the stairway is occupied by a waiting room for lady witnesses.

Back of the elevator in the south end of the building are the ladies and mens Dormitories. These apartments are for the accomodation of jurors at times when the nature or importance of a case under consideration necessitates that the jury be segrigated. Both Dormitories are completely furnished with modern equipment and have bath and toilet rooms in connection.

During the summer and fall of 1922 the basement for the new Court House was excavated and the concrete and steel foundation constructed under the supervision of the County Engineer. Practically all of the manual labor in connection with this work was performed by jail labor. The cost of excavation and construction was approximately seven thousand dollars.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

STATEMENT OF COST OF SUPERSTRUCTURE

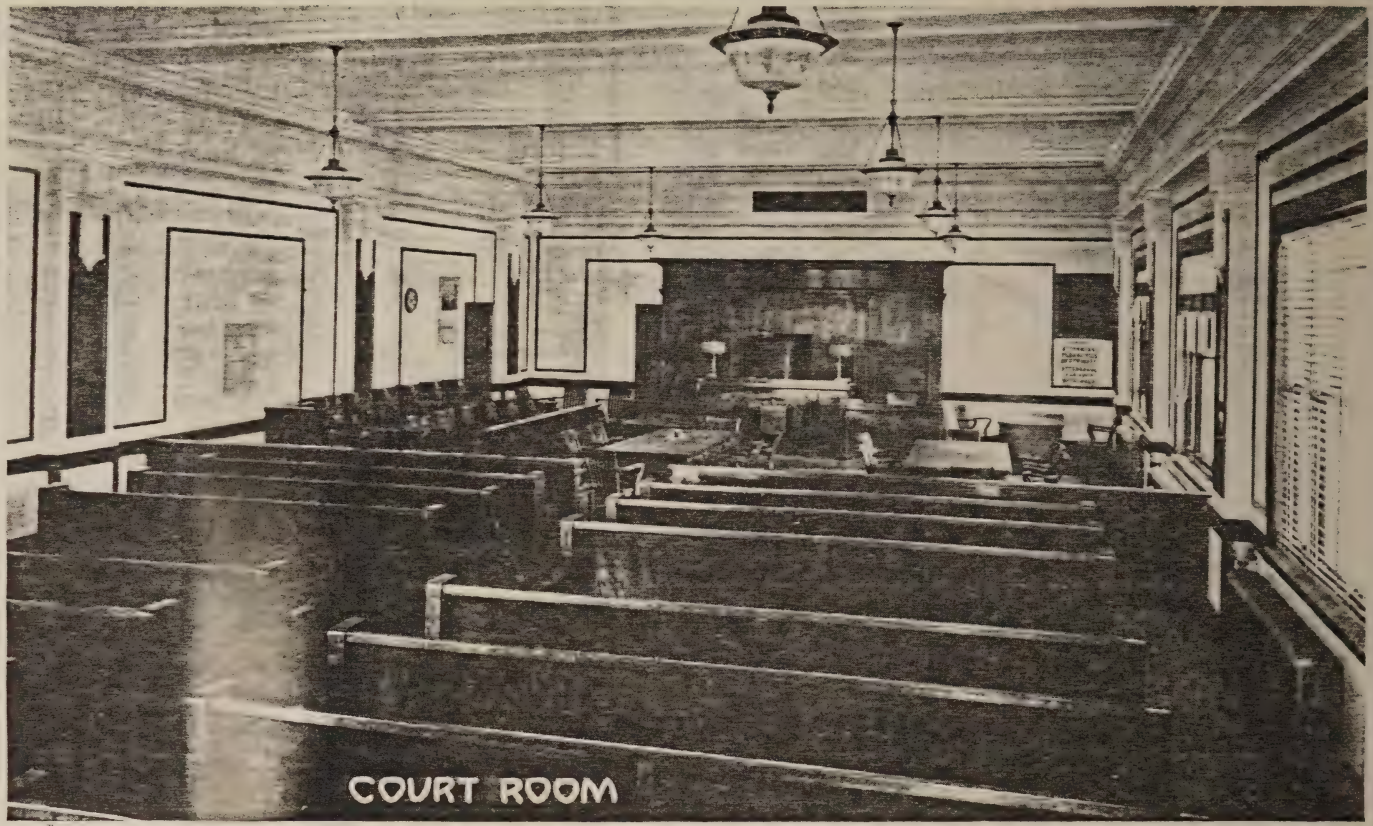
General Contract	$254,645.90.
Heating & Plumbing	27,660.98.
Electric Wiring	4,703.25.
Electric Fixtures	2,183.60.
Architects Fees	9,495.70.
Cost of Superstructure	$298,689.43.

The building is furnished throughout with massive quarter sawed solid oak furniture that is practically indestructable and will never have to be replaced. The furniture was paid for out of the County General Fund the total cost being $20,-815.50.

Statement of Cash Donations received by Fayette County for the New Court House:

People of West Union and vicinity,	$100,000.00
Children of Hon. Wm. E. Fuller for Judges Bench, equipment and Screen	1,400.00
Mrs. Adaline Graham for Clocks on Court House	1,194.00
Mrs. Laura Schenck for Clocks on Court House	1,194.00
Mrs. Louise Miller and daughters Grace and Crystal for Electric Fixtures for Main Entrance and Main Lobby	1,000.00
W. E. Anderson	50.00
John A. Rowe Stone Co.	940.90
Other Donations, Doners names withheld by request	3,600.00
Total amount of Donations	$109,378.90

The above amount, viz; $109,378.90 was saved to the tax payers of Fayette County by building the Court House while these donations were available.



COURT ROOM

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES

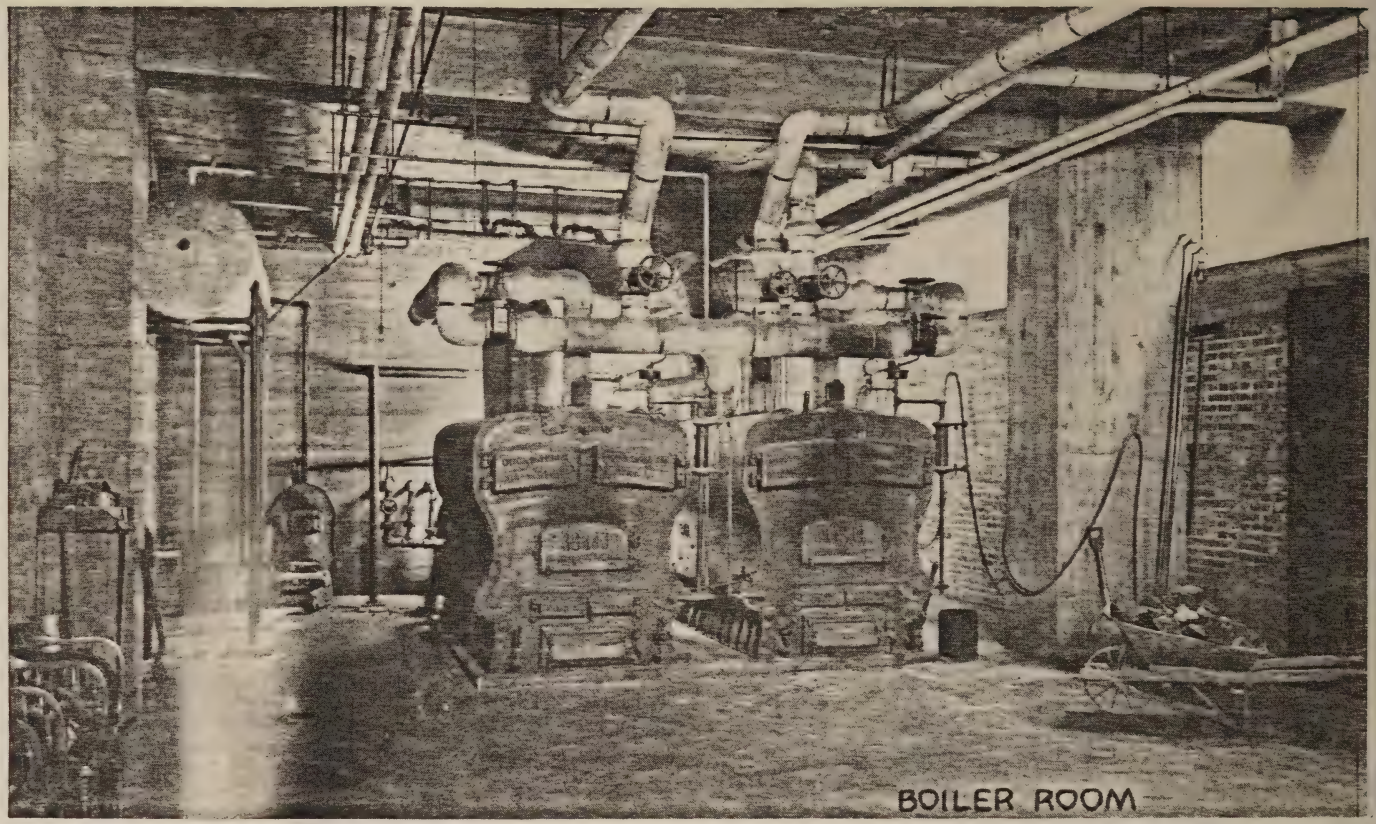
Insurance on old Court House	$25,000.00
Received for salvage from old Court House	1,497.48
Received for dirt from basement	975.20
Jan. 6th, 1923 Appropriated to Improvement Fund	10,000.00
Jan. 7th, 1924 Appropriated to Improvement Fund	10,000.00
Appropriated as per House File 717. 40th General Assembly	13,075.03
September 1st, 1923 Bonds issued to fund judgement	48,762.82
January 1st 1925 Bonds issued to fund judgement	80,000.00

Thirty thousand dollars of the bond issue of January 1st 1925 was immediately taken up with the surplus on hand in the bond fund leaving but fifty thousand dollars of this issue outstanding which bear 4½ and 4¼ per cent interest and mature from 1937 to 1944.

RECAPITULATION

Donations as per statement	$109,378.90
Funds from other sources as per statement	60,547.71
September 1st, 1923 Bonds issued to fund judgement	48,762.82
January 1st, 1925 Bonds issued to fund judgement	80,000.00
Total	$298,689.43

As before stated in this booklet $30,000.00 of the bond issue of January 1st, 1925 was immediately taken up by the County Treasurer with the surplus on hand in the bond fund leaving fifty thousand dollars of this issue outstanding and the bonded indebtedness of the County increased but $98,762.82.



BOILER ROOM

SPECIAL MENTION

The Clocks on the Court House were the gift of Mrs. Adaline Graham and Mrs. Laura Schenck to perpetuate the memory of themselves and of their deceased husbands.

The Judges Bench in the Court Room including the chairs lighting fixtures and screen were the gift of the children of the late Hon. Wm. E. Fuller in memory of their distinguished father.

The Electric Lighting Fixtures in the Main Entrance and in the Main Lobby were the gift of Mrs. Louise Miller and daughters Grace and Crystal in memory of their deceased husband and father, C. C. Miller.

COUNTY OFFICERS IN CHARGE DURING THE PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

W. E. ANDERSON. W. K. HUMPHRY J. F. MILLER.

J. H. Cline .....County Auditor.
E. W. Beermann .....County Treasurer.
John T. Riley .....Clerk of the District Court.
George M. Simpson ..... County Recorder.
Leon R. Layton .....County Attorney.
C. C. Wright .....Sheriff.
N. J. Breckner .....County Superintendent.
A. D. Finch .....County Engineer.

ARCHITECT AND CONTRACTORS

J. G. Ralsten, Architect, Waterloo, Iowa.
Tapager Construction Co. General Contract, Albert Lea, Minn.
E. C. Butler, Heating and Plumbing, Austin, Minn.
Northeastern Iowa Power Co., Electric Work, Clermont, Iowa.
George Metcalf, Superintendent of Contsruction, Waterloo, Iowa.

COMMENDATORY

A few words of commendation should be added here in recognition of the splendid services of Mr. J. G. Ralston the Architect who designed and drew the plans for the Court House and under whose general supervision the building was erected. Mr. Ralston has proved himself an architect of much more than usual ability and in addition to his ability as an architect is a real gentleman.

Mr. George Metcalf who was Inspector of Material and Workmanship and Superintendent of Construction should also be commended for his faithful and efficient services. Mr. Metcalf was present on the work at all times and always looking after the interest of Fayette County.

IN CONCLUSION

The services of the Board of Supervisors should not be overlooked nor underestimated. It was these men who in conjunction with the Architect designed and planned the Court House and under whose supervision and direction the building was erected. It was their aim and endeavor to render their best services and at all times to safeguard the interests of Fayette County.

Respectfully Submitted.
J. H. CLINE, County Auditor.

Photos by Ballard
West Union, Iowa

Press of
Arlington Printing Co.
Arlington, Iowa

FIRST FAYETTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

SECOND FAYETTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

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